The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in its industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Men, like bullets, go farthest when they are smoothest.—Jean Richter.

WHOLE NO. 1008. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 21.

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS HELP COMMUNISM; MILL WORKERS' CONDITION INTOLERABLE

Asheville, N. C., Aug. 2.—Anti-union employers are responsible for the spread of Communism in North Carolina, according to W. B. Plemmons, president of the Asheville Central Labor Union and first vice president of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor.

"We have a situation in North Carolina today where employers are deliberately discharging men and women for the least sympathy with the organized labor movement," Mr. Plemmons declared. "They hope in this way to crush any attempt at organization before the attempt is started.

"We have large manufacturers with hired policemen, guards, and detectives whose chief duty is to watch for any whisper of organization and get rid of those who are considered sympathetic in the slightest degree.

"We have men who have built up huge fortunes by starving their employees, by working them unreasonable hours and paying them ridiculously low wages."

Mr. Plemmons said that State troops are invariably used to protect property of the employers and mill owners and never used to protect the rights and lives of the workers. He declared that "so long as property rights stand ahead of human rights and ahead of human lives, there will be no equitable adjustment of the labor situation. The refusal of employers to meet new conditions, the shooting down of strikers, the crushing of protests by armed troops, all feed the flame of Communism.

"This sort of thing can not and will not go on forever. Either the American Federation of Labor with its policy of conciliation will be accepted or the workers will turn to Communism."

HIGHER WAGES WILL BUY BREAD

The American Bakers' Association has launched a "buy-more-bread" movement. Wheat consumption will be increased 100,000,000 bushels a year, and the farmer and other groups will benefit, it is stated.

This is sound reasoning, but these bakers ignore the fact that consumption depends on income and that a low wage worker is a poor customer.

Many of these bread manufacturers oppose the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union and have forced wages to their lowest point.

These employers could set a good example by recognizing the one force that battles for higher wages in this industry.

If workers have a decent wage it will not be necessary to launch advertising campaigns to increase business.

STATE AID TO CURB CHILD LABOR EVIL

Washington, Aug. 2.—State aid to widows and dependent children sufficient to permit the children to be kept in school up to the age of 16 is urged by the U. S. Children's Bureau as a means to prevent employers from hiring children. To curb the activities of child labor exploiters the bureau also recommends that employers pay fathers wages high enough to enable them to buy a decent standard of living for their families, more effective child labor and school attendance laws, and improvements in our educational system to give children the training that will fit them for the business requirements of employers.

Most of the States have laws fixing minimum ages at which employers are permitted to employ children in factories. Few States have statutes prohibiting subsequently employing children below certain ages in the broad occupational field called "agriculture."

The bureau points out that the enforcement of minimum-age-for-work laws is very difficult. The enforcement is largely in the hands of employers and farmers who profit directly by the exploitation of children and who control the State governments. The difficulty stressed by the bureau is the reluctance employers experience in enforcing child labor laws which will decrease their profits.

A federal child labor law enforced by federal officials would mean something more than the paper on which the law is written. That is one reason why child labor exploiters in every State have so belligerently opposed federal child labor legislation.

JOBLESS INCREASE; UNIONS HOLD WAGES

Edmonton, Alberta, Aug. 2.—Unemployment in all trades and among laborers is very severe in the Province of Western States and in Western Canada, according to Carl E. Berg, organizer of the International Union of Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers, in commenting on information gained from an organizing tour through Montana, Idaho and Utah. No State effort is being put forward to cope with unemployment.

In some of the cities he visited Mr. Berg found that the closely-knit building trades organizations are able to retain high wages and good working conditions despite the unprecedented business depression.

"CLEAN-UP" WORK HELPS THE JOBLESS

San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 2.—The "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign, sponsored by Frank C. MacDonald, general president of the State Building Trades Council of California, is reported to be achieving practical results in providing employment for the unemployed. In many localities public officials and civic, charitable and fraternal organizations are cooperating with the local building trades councils.

HYDRO IS NO MENACE TO STEAM STATIONS

Washington, Aug. 2.—Development of hydro-electric power is not supplanting and will not supplant steam-generated power, according to Major F. K. Newcomber of the Federal Power Commission.

On the contrary, said Major Newcomber, during the period in which vast waterpower projects have been constructed great efficiency has developed in the extraction of potential energy from falling water, improvement in efficiency of steam stations has been so remarkable that their advantages render them able competitors.

A combination of the two types of power is the ideal arrangement, it was stated. Coal power has the advantage in that the plant can be placed anywhere while waterpower resources must be at hand for the installation of machinery to develop that power.

CONGRESS HAMSTRINGS JOBLESS STATISTICS

Washington, Aug. 2.—Directing the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect more detailed figures on unemployment and then nullifying this direction by refusing to appropriate the money to pay for the work entailed was one of the anti-labor achievements of the recent session of Congress, which passed the bill on this subject introduced by Senator Wagner of New York without the financial means to make the law effective.

"It is useless for Congress to tell us what to do without preceding it with means to do it," declared Ethelbert Stewart, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, in commenting on the lack of funds to collect the information called for in the Wagner law.

BLIND WORKERS' WAGES CUT BY GOVERNMENT

Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 2.—The blind employes in the broom factory of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind have been subjected to unwarranted wage reductions and speed-up measures, according to a complaint made by a delegation of the blind workers to the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

The delegation said the Institute Board increased the working week from five to five and one-half days with no increase in the wages of $18.75 per week for time workers and reduced the wages of the employes on piece work all the way from 16 to 25 per cent.

The Trades and Labor Council decided to support the demands of the blind workers.

INSURANCE TO EMPLOYES

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 2.—A group insurance policy for State employes will be effected by Insurance Commissioner Lowry.

The Insurance will not be compulsory for employes but the law provides no means of collection through deductions from salaries.

Steel Directors Secretly Slip Vast Sums to Insiders

The president of the Bethlehem Steel Company, last year, received a bonus of $1,623,532.

This information was pried from officers of the company in a court suit that is intended to check merging this company with Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company.

It was shown that three vice presidents, last year, received in excess of $275,000 apiece in bonuses. A group of Bethlehem executives received a total of $36,493,668 in bonuses from 1911 to 1929, inclusive.

Stockholders of the company were unaware of these tremendous salaries until the information was forced from the company. The stockholders believed their president was paid $12,000 annually.

Even hard-boiled Wall Street financiers question if any man is worth such a wage that would average $5,416 a day if the president worked 300 days in the year and took no holiday, nor winter trips to Palm Beach or summer trip to northern Europe.

These financiers are plainly worried at the exposure that may cause stockholders to ask if this is the only thing that boards of directors do with their property.

The ease with which Bethlehem directors concealed this vast sum should open the eyes of workers who imagine that they are partners in the company plant when they buy a few shares of stock on the installment plan.

Boards of directors are agents of the owners—stockholders—and yet we find more than $36,000,000 has been secretly handed out to a few insiders between 1911 and 1929.

This sort of bookkeeping could easily make a 100 per cent profit look like a streak of red on the wrong side of the ledger. This would be useful if wages were to be cut or a tax reduction campaign launched.

If the Bethlehem directors can hand out $36,000,000 to a few insiders and pay their president a secret bonus of more than $1,600,000 without their stockholders' knowledge, isn't it fair to assume that additional "pay dirt" would be struck if the investigation were continued?

And isn't it fair to assume that Bethlehem is not the only concern that has perfected plans to hide profits?

HIGHER WAGES LURE IMMIGRANTS; IDEAL NOT REACHED, PROBE SHOWS

By MARY V. ROBINSON
United States Women's Bureau

In a survey of 2,346 wage-earning women who were born overseas and are living in certain sections of Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley, "better living" was frequently the reason given for coming to America.

A mere glance around homes visited disclose that in many instances these immigrants have fallen far short of their goal.

The bureau of municipal research, in Philadelphia, recommended as a standard for the housing of the wage-earners' family in health and decency a six-room house, or flat, or apartment containing a bath room, laundry tubs, furnace and facilities for cooking and lighting with gas.

An analysis of the data collected in the Women's Bureau study shows that for the Lehigh Valley, even when several families live cooperatively in a house of six rooms or more are considered as one household, that one-half of the dwellings visited fell below this standard.

In Philadelphia more than three-fifths failed to measure up to the requirements. Eleven houses were encountered with 12, 13 or 15 people occupying six rooms.

Too often the women interviewed were living in a crowded house devoid of all modern conveniences, located perhaps in a blind alley, and bearing the earmarks of distressing poverty. The kitchen in a number of instances answered also for dining room, living room and bedroom.

In the Lehigh Valley, it was not uncommon to find two, three, or more families occupying a house built for a single family, the one kitchen serving as a community room where each woman cooked her family's meals on the common stove and where everybody congregated.

JOBLESS AID GROUP CREATED BY HOOVER

Washington, Aug. 2.—President Hoover announces the creation of a fact-finding committee to investigate unemployment and unemployment relief measures.

The official announcement states that the members of the committee will include representatives of the "American Federation of Labor, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers' Association, the Industrial Conference Board, the railway employes and other local organizations, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Committee on Economic Changes, and other economic institutions."

William M. Steuart, director of the census; Ethelbert Stewart, commissioner of labor statistics, and a representative of the Department of Agriculture will be ex-officio members of the committee.

COMMUNISTS MENACE AMERICAN INDUSTRY

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 2.—Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr., chairman of the House committee investigating Communist propaganda in the United States, declared here that the Government of the United States is not menaced by Russia, but that the Communists do constitute a menace towards industry.

Some of the witnesses before the Fish committee estimated the number of Communists in Detroit all the way from 1,500 to 5,000. It was claimed that a Communist paper devoted exclusively to the employes of the Ford Motor Company has 20,000 circulation.

Rev. Charles E. Coughlin stated that Henry Ford's labor management for the growth of Communism because of the way the officials of the Ford Motor Company handle the employment situation.

LOS ANGELES UNIONS RESIST WAGE CUTS

Los Angeles, Calif., Aug. 2.—Officials of the Automobile Club of Southern California have refused to sign union wages and observe other union working rules and conditions in the construction of the addition to their building here, according to a statement by the Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters. Management of the Automobile Club persist in taking advantage of the unemployment situation and are hiring non-union carpenters for $1 a day less than the union scale," declares the council, "thereby lowering the standard of living." In view of its unfair treatment of the organized carpenters, the council requests trade unionists to refrain from patronizing the Automobile Club.

CALIFORNIA CARPENTERS FIGHT WAGE DECREASES

Bakersfield, Calif., Aug. 2.—The Bellar Construction Company of Los Angeles recently secured a contract from the Fox West Coast Theater Corporation to build a theater here. The construction company took advantage of the unemployment situation and engaged carpenters for from $5 to $8, the local scale being $9 for eight hours, and established other anti-union working conditions. The carpenters' local union and the Kern County Labor Council have placed both concerns on the unfair list.

AVERAGE AUTO TAX $89

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 2.—The average total tax paid on motor vehicles in this country is $25, according to C. W. Pabcock, State Commissioner of Highways.

North Dakota has the lowest charge, $20.16. This includes license tax, gasoline tax and personal property tax. The highest average, $88.82, is paid in Nevada.

UNEMPLOYED STARVE; INVESTORS PROSPER

Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 2.—"Prevailing absence of protection against unemployment, either through systematic measures of prevention or unemployment insurance, reflects discredit on all those responsible for the operation of large-scale enterprises," declares the Railway Labor Executives' Association, composed of the labor executives of all the standard railroad labor organizations.

"It is time to say bluntly that there is something fundamentally wrong with an industrial system whereby workers are deprived of their subsistence in order that security holders may continue to draw unearned income," the statement continues.

"The proposition that idle men must starve in order that idle property may earn returns is indefensible. . . . Underfed children produce a greater social loss than underpriced stocks and bonds."

The association insists that if business executives refuse to voluntarily remedy the unemployment situation "the public will demand that responsibility for protecting the livelihood of workers be imposed upon employers by law."

PRESIDENT APPROVES PRIVATE SHOALS PLAN

Washington, Aug. 2.—The President has committed himself to the private operation of Muscle Shoals plan, and declares he will veto the Senate plan of governmental operation.

The President made this announcement in a letter to Congressman Reece of Tennessee, who is seeking renomination. His opponent attacked him because of his opposition in the past to the Norris plan of government operation of Muscle Shoals, which has been approved by the Senate.

The President wrote to Reece: "I am assured the Senate plan can not be passed in the House. You would approve the plan, because it is not in the interests of Tennessee or the rest of the Nation."

THEATER EMPLOYES REFUSE WAGE CUTS

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2.—The Sellies Theater Company insisted that the moving picture operators, musicians, stage employes and janitors in its employ take an average wage reduction of $20 a week. The unions refused the wage cuts and placed the theater on the unfair list.

WILL WASTE PEACHES TO UPHOLD PRICES

Fresno, Calif., Aug. 2.—Peach canners and growers favor letting this fruit rot on the trees that prices may be upheld. The crop is estimated at 439,000 tons, against 179,000 tons last year. If growers throw this fruit away on the market, prices will fall below the cost of production, it is claimed.

PEOPLE LEAVING FARMS

New York, Aug. 2.—The new federal census shows a pronounced drift to cities and an abandonment of farm life, according to Dr. Walter Laidlaw of the Cities Census Committee.

Agriculture, he points out, was abandoned in New York State five times faster during the past five years than during the five which preceded.

WAITERS ORGANIZE

Shreveport, La., Aug. 2.—Cooks and waiters have organized. They are chartered by the regular A. F. of L. International affiliate.

MEAT CUTTERS UNITE

Steubenville, Ohio, Aug. 2.—Meat cutters and butcher workmen in this city organized and are affiliated to the trade union movement.

LIMIT OUTPUT TO BOOST PROFITS

New York, Aug. 2.—Employer economists have yelped themselves hoarse in condemnation of the alleged "restriction of output" by trade unionists to maintain a reasonable price for the use of their labor power.

It is remarkable how a change comes over the spirit of the economists when output restriction is employed by employers for the exclusive benefit of investors who "earn" their living by clipping coupons and receiving dividend checks.

The advantages of restriction of output for the benefit of employers is clearly set forth recently by Alfred J. Williams in an article in the Annalist, the "journal of finance, commerce and banking" published by the New York Times Company, on the "cooperative control of crude petroleum output."

Owners of the petroleum industry, Mr. Williams declares, have been struggling for years to gain control of the supply of the raw material in the oil industry—crude petroleum. Why have they sought this control? To pay higher wages and shorten the hours of labor of the men who do the work? Not at all. According to Mr. Williams the prospect of adequate restriction of output is bright and "will work for greater stabilization of earnings and economies in costs."

The owners of some of the oil wells have reduced the output 50 per cent. Present wells centers around bringing the recalcitrant operators, usually small ones, into the voluntary agreements. "Success for the movement will tend to stabilize prices and earnings," concludes Mr. Williams, "and should be a welcome factor in the situation from the point of view of the investor in oil securities."

MOONEY WITNESS ADMITS PERJURY

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—John MacDonald, State witness in the Mooney-Billings trials, told the justices of the California State Supreme Court that he lied at the trials and was induced to take such action by Charles Fickert, then prosecuting attorney.

The justices conducted the cross-examination informally—and were not sitting as the State Supreme Court.

Under a California law Billings can not be pardoned without the consent of this court, as he had previously been convicted of felony. The governor recently refused to recommend his pardon. Governor Young has the power to pardon Mooney, but he has linked the Billings case with Mooney's. If the court maintain their position regarding Billings the Governor may again refuse Mooney's plea.

MacDonald, questioned by Justice Preston, admitted he had told "five different stories at five different times" about what he saw in connection with the bombing of the preparedness parade.

"Fickert packed a whole pack of lies into my head," said MacDonald.

LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS ORGANIZING LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, Calif., Aug. 2.—"Long hours, small, pitiful wages, miserable working conditions, discrimination and the speed-up system to the point where it is dangerous to the health of those employed and spells unemployment for many others is still the rule rather than the exception in Los Angeles," declares Joseph Breslaw, vice president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, who is here to organize this branch of the garment industry.

Mr. Breslaw explained that his union does not hold the individual manufacturer responsible for low wages in the garment industry. "We believe," he says, "that the manufacturers as well as our people are caught in a huge competitive wheel in which labor is ground down together. The trade union today understands that in order to establish sound working conditions we have to place the industry on a sound footing. In that we have been successful in all of the major garment centers in the United States."

STATE TEXTILE COUNCIL

Greenville, S. C., Aug. 2.—Through the efforts of delegates representing a number of local unions of textile workers in South Carolina, a State Textile Council has been organized in the State and a general movement of organization of the entire textile rgions of South Carolina is now under way, Francis J. Gorman, a member of the Southern organization committee, said. At the recent State convention of Greenville the 35 textile delegates decided to form a State council which was authorized by the convention.

UNION "UNFAIR LIST"

Everett, Wash., Aug. 2.—The Everett Central Labor Council and Building Trades Council have placed sixty individuals and firms on their "we don't patronize" list. The building trades contribute the largest number to the unfair list.

POSTMEN WALK 15 MILES

Washington, Aug. 2.—Letter carriers in 15 of the largest cities walk 12 miles a day, reports the Post Office Department. This 12 miles may be covered in one trip, or several, depending upon the length of the route, it was explained.

EQUITY AND AGENTS CELEBRATE PEACE

New York, Aug. 2.—A group of theatrical casting agents gave a dinner to officials of Actors' Equity Association in celebration of the end of a long fight which at one time was carried to the United States Supreme Court.

Casting agents are employment agencies for actors. Charges have often been so excessive, and other conditions so objectionable, that the unionized actors agreed they would only patronize agents who were licensed by them.

The agents who were not licensed appealed to the courts on the ground that their "business" was injured.

As a result of protracted negotiations an agreement was signed. Frank Gilmore, president of Equity, described the agreement as "another of Equity's dreams come true." He said it marked the first settlement of a labor war in the theater world, in everywhere else actors and agents are at swords' points.

BUSINESS RECOVERY NOT YET VISIBLE

New York, Aug. 2.—There is nothing in prevailing business facts to indicate the end of the business depression, declares the Annalist, an authoritative journal of commerce and finance.

Ballyho pipers for prosperity by proclamation claim that business conditions can not be worse than they are now and that therefore improvement is the next inevitable step.

It would be a welcome discovery to find in the current records of business the evidence that the "traditional darkest hour just before the dawn" had arrived, and was even now passing into new brightness," says the Annalist. "That evidence is not visible, however; the records suggest, on the contrary, that further general decline in business must be endured. Building contracts, the commodity price level, freight loadings, steel and electric power production, and automobiles, all clearly fail to point upward."

MOONEY AND BILLINGS INNOCENT; FREE THEM

San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 2.—"We reiterate our firm belief in the innocence of Mooney and Billings," declares a resolution adopted by the executive council of the California State Federation of Labor, "and strongly urge the Governor of California to reopen the case and use every means at his disposal to have all the discredible witnesses brought before competent authorities so that the flimsy excuses for the continued incarceration of these innocent men may be fully swept away."

WISCONSIN OUT-OF-WORKS

Madison, Wis., Aug. 2.—Factory employment and payrolls in Wisconsin took another slump from May 15 to June 15, according to the Wisconsin industrial commission. Factory employment declined 4.1 per cent during the month and weekly payrolls dropped 7.1 per cent. Compared with a year ago, employment in Wisconsin has declined 11.3 per cent and payrolls have decreased 19 per cent.

TEXTILE UNION WORK EXTENDING IN SOUTH

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 2.—Francis J. Gorman, a member of the southern organization campaign committee, with headquarters in Danville, Va., conferred with Chairman Paul J. Smith on the general organization work of the American Federation of Labor in the South.

The Danville, Va., textile situation was gone into, and the committee decided to call particular attention to the methods being used in Danville to obtain workers from other parts of the South, while mill owners let their own employes walk the streets. The committee will send textile workers to stay away from Danville and not assist employers in destroying the local union.

On the Greensboro, N. C., situation where workers lost their jobs and were evicted from their homes for joining the union, the committee proposes to conduct a wide publicity campaign in exposing these methods of persecution.

Mr. Gorman said he had visited many parts of the South recently and had found greater interest than ever in the trade union movement, and this in the face of a severe unemployment situation and other economic problems affecting the textile industry.

Local unions of textile workers in Augusta and Columbus, Ga., are making steady progress in organization, mass meetings are being attended by thousands "of workers, who realize that their only hope rests with affiliation with the union.

Mr. Gorman said the United Textile Workers of America had just opened up a new territory in the Huntsville, Opelika, Anniston and other textile regions of northern Alabama and that prospects for organizing more local unions were exceptionally good.

JOBLESS PAYMENTS BY ELECTRIC TRUST

New York, Aug. 2.—The General Electric company's unemployment insurance plan, which has been launched, was explained by President Gerard Swope, to a group of business men in this city.

The plan, Mr. Swope said, is an experiment and is optional with employes. The will go effective in any plant when 60 per cent of the employes desire it. Any employe is eligible if he has been employed one year. He pays 1 per cent of his weekly earnings, the company paying an equal amount. The company creates a trust for the fund and guarantees 5 per cent interest on average balances. Employes contribute its own fund with a board composed of employes and appointees of the company, which elects the chairman.

The amount paid to any employe temporarily laid off can not exceed $20 a week and for not longer than 10 weeks in any one year. The higher payments will apply to foremen and other supervisors.

Persons leaving the company may withdraw the money they have paid, less benefits they have drawn and their share of payments made to others.

The plan does not apply to workers who may be discharged because of obsolescence, curtailment of departments, nor to workers employed in rush periods. These workers do not come under the one-year provision.

Only those workers who are "temporarily" laid off will come under the plan. It will not affect the victims of automatic machinery or scientific management. When they are discharged, they can withdraw the amount of money paid in by them, but they receive no benefits.

WAGE CUTS HANDED STRIKE BREAKERS

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—The Quaker and Rodgers non-union full-fashioned hosiery mills started some of its machines today with wage rates for its strike breaker employes cut from 10 to 25 per cent. The wage cut is the "reward" which the strike breakers are given from "scabbing" on their fellow workers.

The hosiery workers claim that since the Quaker and Rodgers mills started the wage cuts their business has slumped so much that the strikers drawing strike benefits are better off than most of the strike breakers.

MORE INDUSTRIAL DEATHS

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 2.—A "substantial increase" in the number of deaths caused by industrial accidents was shown in June, as compared with May, according to Miss Frances Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner.

The Department of Labor, in June, received 195 preliminary reports of deaths. Figures for previous May were confined mainly to construction work, which reported 54 fatalities.

North Carolina Labor Commissioner Condemned for Attacking Unions

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 2.—Frank D. Grist, commissioner of labor and printing of North Carolina, who holds a job made possible by labor, has stepped forth, cudgel in hands, to defend the textile operators of Greensboro, N. C., and to criticise American Federation of Labor organizers, whom he designates as "agitators," working to foment strikes "in order to hold their soft jobs."

"These so-called 'agitators' to whom Grist refers," said Chairman Paul J. Smith of the Southern organization campaign, "created his job in the hope that his services would be beneficial to labor as well as the employer, but it appears that after a perusal of the article in which he is liberally quoted, he is biting the hand that is feeding him."

Grist admitted in the interview that he had not investigated the Greensboro situation, where mill workers are fired from their jobs and evicted from their homes for having the temerity to join a labor union. "It is high time the commissioner of labor of North Carolina made an investigation of the existing situation," Chairman Smith said. "It is his duty to do so and to do so impartially, yet to have him issue statements to public prints in defense of the mill owners, who, he says, are running their mills for altruistic purposes only, and advises the workers meekly to accept what wages and working conditions the owners may impose."

Chairman Smith expressed the hope that Commissioner Grist would attend the State Federation of Labor convention at Salisbury, N. C., which opens August 11.

Employers Responsible for Jobless; Soup Lines Predicted in Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 2.—"Unless some action is taken before winter, thousands of unemployed workers in Oklahoma will have to be fed in soup lines," declares State Labor Commissioner W. A. Murphy in a statement on the unemployment situation.

Commissioner Murphy visualizes the situation as one in which the responsibility is on the employers. He sees that under our present system of production the employers are the ones who buy the ability of the workers to produce commodities and perform service. It is also the employers who refuse to buy this labor power and thus throw the workers into the streets without jobs. He therefore holds that business men should by State officials as the ones who must be relied upon to provide the remedy for the nation-wide misfortune of business executives.

But in the same breath the Commissioner suggests the weakness of relying on business men to adequately meet the unemployment problem. "Most business men seem to have the idea that the situation will work itself out," he says. "The machine age and the age of mergers have brought about a condition different from that heretofore experienced. Classes of skilled labor have been released that never before sought aid of employment agencies."